



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services**

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Leza Wainwright, Director

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To: Legislative Oversight Committee Members
Commission for MH/DD/SAS
Consumer/Family Advisory Committee Chairs
State Consumer Family Advisory Committee Chairs
Advocacy Organizations and Groups
North Carolina Association of County Commissioners
County Managers
County Board Chairs
North Carolina Council of Community Programs
NC Association of Directors of DSS

State Facility Directors
Area Program Directors
Area Program Board Chairs
DHHS Division Directors
Provider Organizations
MH/DD/SAS Professional Organizations and Groups
MH/DD/SAS Stakeholder Organizations and Groups
Other MH/DD/SAS Stakeholders

From: Leza Wainwright

Re: Communication Bulletin #106



The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS) and the Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) are in the process of requesting approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for a Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse service waiver program.

A Waiver Leadership Team has been established under the guidance of Ken Marsh to support this waiver expansion project. DMA has designated Judy Walton as their lead person to serve on the Waiver Leadership Team. DMA and DMH/DD/SAS have contracted with Mercer to assist in the development of the waiver application amendment that is scheduled to be submitted this month. The divisions are also working on a Request For Applications (RFA) for local management entities who may be interested in participating in this waiver.

The Waiver Leadership Team has established a vision statement for this waiver expansion program: Responsible Change to Achieve Easy Access, Better Quality and Personal Outcomes. The model for this waiver amendment is based upon the current 1915 b/c waiver that has been operating in Cabarrus, Davidson, Rowan, Stanly, and Union counties since April 2005. The existing waiver is currently administered by the State through PBH (formerly known as Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare), a local management entity (LME) for the delivery of publicly funded MH/DD/SA services. PBH has been working in partnership with the DHHS, DMH/DD/SAS and DMA in support of this waiver expansion request to CMS.

Based upon CMS approval of the waiver expansion request, this will support the State to methodically step into an additional wavier entity to operate in the same capacity as PBH as a prepaid health plan for the delivery of MH/DD/SA services. All Medicaid recipients residing in the catchment area of a LME that has been approved for waiver participation will be required to obtain MH/DD/SA services through their respective waiver entity geographical region.



We realize that stakeholder involvement is essential to the success of the Waiver project. We are developing specific ways for consumers, family members and the general public to participate in the development, implementation and oversight of this project.

The State plans to release the initial RFA in the spring of 2010. The State will select one or two waiver entities to begin operation during SFY 2010/2011 if approved by CMS. The request for applications will provide specific details on requirements for participation. Upon success of this waiver initiative, it is anticipated that DHHS will issue additional RFAs to establish more waiver entities within the state.

Additional information about this 1915 b/c waiver will be provided through a designated Waiver Web Page, the joint DMH/DD/SAS and DMA Implementation Updates, DMH/DD/SAS Communication Bulletins, DMA Medicaid Bulletins and a Special Series of Waiver Fact Sheets.

Cc:	Secretary Lanier Cansler	SCFAC Chair
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	Michael Watson	Lisa Hollowell
	DMH/DD/SAS Executive Leadership Team	Shawn Parker
	DMH/DD/SAS Management Leadership Team	Kaye Holder
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